Lambda Letters Project

Vol. 13, No. 4 April, 2005 www.lambdaletters.org LambdaLP@aol.com (916) 728-1261

Is Redistricting an LGBTI Issue?

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

There are increasing calls for changing the way legislative districts are created. Is this an issue that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) community should care about?

Many very good bills for the LGBTI community have been approved by our state legislature over the past several years. This happened because the Democrats hold the majority of the seats in the legislature, and most of those Democrats are very *liberal. Fewer of these bills would have been passed if the legislature were filled with moderates.*

Some say the redistricting process affects the makeup of the legislature. A less political way of drawing legislative districts might produce a legislature with more moderate legislators and fewer extremists from either the left or the right. Would that be good for the LGBTI community?

Legislative districts are usually drawn every 10 years after the census is completed. The districts are drawn by state legislators and approved by the governor. Legislators generally create "safe" districts. A current Democratic legislator wants a district filled mostly with Democrat voters. Republican legislators want their districts to be filled mostly with Republican voters. That pretty well guarantees that she or he will get reelected.

The current legislative districts are very safe for current legislators of either party. No incumbent state legislator was defeated in the 2004 election. Some say this undermines the democratic election process. Whoever is currently in a legislative office will get reelected. So why vote?

Others say the system leads to extremism among legislators. If a legislator's district had the same number of Democratic and Republican voters, that legislator would have to amass a moderate voting record in the legislature to appeal to enough voters, from both parties, to get reelected. If most of the voters in a district are of the same party as the legislator, the legislator's voting record doesn't matter. Most voters automatically vote for the candidate from their own party. Because their reelection is more or less guaranteed, legislators can support "extreme" legislation without worrying about the consequences.

Last year Lambda Letters scored the voting records of our state legislators. The average score for Democratic legislators was 94%. The average score for Republicans was 14%. There were few moderates in either party. A legislature which is polarized in this way can find it difficult to get enough votes to do even the basic things a legislature should do, like passing a budget.

The current way of drawing legislative districts may be antidemocratic and may undermine the right of voters to make real choices in legislative elections. It might also impair the legislature's ability to do its work. On the other hand, the LGBTI community really has benefited from the current system.

Should good citizens support the concept of changing to a less political process for legislative redistricting? I think it's a toss up. But it is worth thinking about.

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA #35375

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters and Messages Collected

February, 2005	10,294 letters & e-mails
In all of 2005	51,368 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

February, 2005	$3,537
In all of 2005	$11,430

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; and women. We do this by urging elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

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Michael O'Donahue, Sacramento, michael.odonahue@lambdaletters.org
Lori Reyes, Sacramento, lori.reyes@lambdaletters.org
Stacy L. Saetta, San Francisco, stacy.saetta@lambdaletters.org
Ellis Vance, Fresno, ellis.vance@lambdaletters.org
Pat Washington, San Diego, pat.washington@lambdaletters.org

Staff

Chief Lobbyist, E-mail Alert Advocate:
Boyce Hinman, (916) 728-1261, boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org
Newsletter/Website Editor:
stefan.gruenwedel@lambdaletters.org

Legislative Analysts:
- LGBTI Issues: shirin.buckman@lambdaletters.org
- HIV/AIDS Issues: *Vacant*
- People of Color Issues: marty.martinez@lambdaletters.org
- Women's Issues: kathleen.watanabe@lambdaletters.org

General Coordinator:
aeire.stickney@lambdaletters.org
Volunteer Coordinator:
lori.norman@lambdaletters.org

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Send address changes to Lambda Letters Project, 2528 Madison Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116-2922 or e-mail aeire.stickney@lambdaletters.org.

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Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave? If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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LGBTI Issue

Teach Tolerance in Schools

By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst

Assembly Bill 723, authored by Judy Chu (D–Monterey), requires the California Department of Education to develop a curriculum that teaches racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance to K-12 students. While the intent of this bill is very good, the language does not include the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning (LGBTIQ) community as a subject of tolerance education.

It is important for children to learn to appreciate other cultures at a young age. However, harassment of LGBTIQ students is not rare and must be a subject of concern for school boards across the state.

According to a survey by the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, 84% of LGBTIQ teens are verbally harassed at school. Forty percent of lesbian, gay, or bisexual teens are physically abused, compared with 55% of transgender teens. Of this number, 83% report that faculty never intervene. When a person encounters a hostile environment with very little relief, if any, from figures of authority, they choose not to go to that place anymore. LGBTIQ students are therefore three times more likely to drop out of school and 40% more likely to skip school because they feel "unsafe."

If a curriculum of tolerance would be mandated by the passage of this bill, it would be an enormous step towards educating all students, early on in their development, that all people are to be valued, regardless of their color, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation or sexual identity. Just as it is not "wrong" for a person to be of a different color, ethnicity, or religion, it is not "wrong" to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or intersex—or even to question whether you are any of those. If the education of tolerance is education in human development, then no underrepresented minority must be left out of the curriculum.

Please write to the Assembly Education Committee. Urge them to approve AB 723. But ask them first to amend it to require teaching tolerance of the LGBTIQ community.

Women's Issue

Fund Domestic Abuse Programs

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Domestic abuse is widespread in California and the nation. According to the Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, one million women suffer nonfatal violence by an intimate each year. The Commonwealth Fund reports that domestic violence is the single major cause of injury to women. The California Department of Social Services has reported that domestic violence is the cause of 30% of physical disabilities in women.

This is not just a straight issue. According to the *American Bar Association Journal,* the prevalence of domestic violence among same-sex couples is approximately 25–33%. Each year, between 50,000 and 100,000 lesbians and as many as 500,000 gay men are battered. According to the *New England Law Review,* same-sex batterers use forms of abuse similar to those of heterosexual batterers. But they have an additional weapon: the threat of "outing" their partner to family, friends, employers, or the community.

In response to the epidemic of domestic abuse, most California counties have established a number of domestic abuse prevention and treatment programs. Much of the money for these programs comes from fines levied against those convicted of domestic abuse. However, collecting those fines is not easy. Many of them go uncollected in spite of aggressive collection campaigns. This cash shortage has strangled many beneficial programs.

AB 106, introduced by Rebecca Cohn (D–Campbell), suggests a solution to the problem. It requires the courts of each county to establish a one-time amnesty program for fees, penalties, and assessments imposed in domestic battery cases that have been delinquent for not less than six months as of January 1, 2006. It provides that the amount scheduled by the court shall be 70% of the total fees, penalties, and assessments. Offenders, this one time, could pay just 70% of what they owe. This plan is modeled after a very successful income tax amnesty program in this state.

AB 106 certainly won't solve the problem of domestic abuse. But it may persuade many people who have not paid their fines to come forward and do so. That would provide some much needed cash for domestic abuse treatment and prevention programs. Please write to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Urge them to vote for AB 106.

HIV/AIDS Issue

Help Stop AIDS in Prisons

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

By some estimates, the rate of HIV infection in California's prison system is eight times higher than in the general population. Unprotected sex is one of the three most common means of HIV transmission in the prisons. And yet condoms are prohibited in California prisons.

In California, one-fifth of inmates are incarcerated on drug-related charges. Many of these individuals are, or have been, injection drug users who are at a high risk of contracting HIV through needle sharing.

The typical prisoner begins incarceration already with a more-likely chance of being HIV-positive than someone in the general population. Placed in a single-sex environment, without access to condoms, prisoners often engage in consensual, unprotected sex. They do it for bartering for goods and for personal protection. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has reported that up to 30 percent of federal inmates engage in homosexual activity during incarceration. Without condoms, that is a guaranteed recipe for the rapid spread of HIV and AIDS.

That, in turn, increases the medical costs for the prison system. They have to treat HIV and AIDS, for which medications are expensive. It also puts the general population at risk. Most of the prisoners are eventually released. Many of them who arrived at prison HIV-negative leave HIV-infected. They are then at risk of transmitting the disease to their wives or girlfriends or to those who share needles with them.

AB 1677, introduced by Paul Koretz (D–West Hollywood), provides a very simple solution to the problem. It says that private, nonprofit organizations should be allowed to distribute condoms to prisoners in California's prisons. AB 1677 is a good bill. Please write to the members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Urge them to vote for this bill.

People of Color Issue

Support Health Care for Everyone

By Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst

Senator Sheila Kuehl (D–Los Angeles) has reintroduced a bill creating a single-payer system to provide health coverage for every person in California while preserving, or perhaps even increasing, everyone's ability to choose their own physician. According to a study by the distinguished Lewin Group, SB 840, the California Health Insurance Reliability Act, would reduce healthcare spending for employers who currently provide employee and dependent coverage as well as for most individuals.

Over 6.5 million Californians—more than one in every five people—went without health insurance in 2003. People of color are disproportionately uninsured. The US spends twice as much per person as every other industrialized country on healthcare, and yet we are the only industrialized nation where people regularly go bankrupt because of medical costs.

A single-payer system would cover everyone, while at the same time reducing costs by streamlining the healthcare system and reducing administrative costs. A recent Boston University study found that our current system wastes nearly half of all health spending on clinical and administrative waste. It is estimated that by replacing the administrative functions of thousands of different insurance companies with just one single-payer insurance entity, California could shift $20 billion in the first year from administration into direct healthcare.

Also, by consolidating California's purchasing power for pharmaceuticals into one large entity, California could bargain down drug costs and shift an additional $5.3 billion into direct healthcare. Finally, by providing preventative and primary care to everyone, California could actually save an additional $3.4 billion in the first year. These savings would occur because diseases would be stopped before they progress to more serious stages, when they are more expensive to treat.

This act will affordably cover every Californian with a high quality of care and comprehensive benefits. Please write to the Senate Banking and Finance Committee in support of this important bill.

April Legislative Update

Each bill introduced in the state legislature must be reviewed by a policy committee in each house before the full Assembly and Senate can vote on them. The Assembly Health Committee is an example of a policy committee. The job of the policy committee is to decide if the bill makes sense from a policy standpoint. Each bill expected to cost the state or local governments $150,000 or more per year must also be voted on by the Appropriations Committee of each house before the full house can vote on it. A bill that costs that much is called a "fiscal" bill.

There are deadlines for getting through the policy committees. All fiscal bills must be approved no later than April 22 by the policy committee of the house in which the bill was introduced; non-fiscal bills must be approved no later than April 29. The purpose of these deadlines is to ensure that bills move forward in time to be passed before the legislature closes for the year. Any bill missing these deadlines dies. No further action is permitted on the bill unless its author gets a waiver of the rules.

Here is a list of the bills we are tracking at this time.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 73 (Dario Frommer, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the California Rx Prescription Drug Web Site Program, which would provide information to California residents about options for obtaining prescription drugs at affordable prices. This bill would require the Web site, at a minimum, to provide information about—and establish electronic links to—certain federal, state, and pharmaceutical programs, and pharmacies that are located in Canada, England, and Ireland that meet specified requirements.
Status: Referred first to Assembly Health Committee and then to Assembly Business and Professions Committee. Scheduled for a vote in the Assembly Health Committee on April 12.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 95 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To require manufacturers of drugs for life-threatening chronic conditions that are on the list for Medi-Cal or the AIDS Drugs Assistance Program to pay the state a rebate equal to the costs of marketing that drug. The bill also would require these manufacturers to disclose to state all costs incurred in the marketing of the drugs to consumers and physicians.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 12.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 228 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To prohibit a healthcare service plan and a health insurer from denying coverage for the costs of organ or tissue transplantation services on the basis that the enrollee, subscriber, insured, or policyholder is infected with HIV if that person is deemed an acceptable transplant candidate by the person's physicians.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 12.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 349 (Dennis Mountjoy, R–Monrovia)
Purpose: To prohibit certain sexual instruction or counseling of pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and to require a school district to provide notice to and obtain the written approval of the parent or guardian of a pupil before providing this instruction or counseling to a pupil in grades 7 to 12.
Status: Referred to Assembly Education Committee for a hearing on March 16. Hearing canceled by the bill's author. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

AB 547 (Patty Berg, D–Eureka)
Purpose: To allow local governments to establish and maintain clean needle and syringe exchange programs without having to declare a health state of emergency every two weeks.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 12.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 568 (Bonnie Garcia, R–Cathedral City)
Purpose: To declare the Legislature's intent to enact legislation to allow FDA-approved, rapid HIV testing methods to be offered to women at annual obstetrics-gynecology appointments and at first prenatal appointments.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Watch. Probably support.

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city, state, zip

April 15, 2005

The Hon.Gene Mullin
The California State Legislature
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Mullin :

Please vote for AB 723. But please first amend it to include sexual minorities as a subject of tolerance in education. AB 723 requires the California Department of Education to develop a curriculum that teaches racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance to K-12 students. While the intent of this bill is excellent, discrimination does not occur solely in the form of racial, ethnic, or religious intolerance.

It is important for children to learn to appreciate other cultures at a young age. However, harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or questioning (LGBTIQ) students is not rare and must be a subject of concern for school boards across the state. According to a survey conducted by the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, 84% of LGBTIQ teens are verbally harassed at school. Forty percent of lesbian, gay, or bisexual teens are physically abused, compared with 55% of transgender teens. Of these numbers, 83% report that faculty never intervene.

When a person encounters a hostile environment with very little, if any, relief from figures of authority, they choose not to go to that place anymore. LGBTIQ students are three times more likely to drop out of school and 40% more likely to skip school because they feel "unsafe."

If a curriculum of tolerance were mandated by the passage of this bill, it would be an enormous step towards educating all students, early in their development, that all people should be valued, regardless of their color, ethnicity, religion, or sexual identity.

Please amend AB 723 to include LGBTIQ education as a subject in the proposed tolerance curriculum. In doing so, you can ensure that students learn all aspects of prejudice.

Sincerely,

name

address

city, state, zip

April 15, 2005

The Hon. Mark Leno
The California State Legislature
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Leno :

Please vote for AB 1677 when it comes before you in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

By some estimates, the rate of HIV infection in California's prison system is eight times higher than in the general population. Unprotected sex is one of the three most common means of HIV transmission in prison. And yet condoms are prohibited in California's prisons. In our state, one-fifth of inmates are incarcerated on drug-related charges. Many of them are or have been injection drug users who are at a high risk of contracting HIV through needle sharing.

The typical prisoner begins incarceration more likely to be HIV-positive than someone in the general population. Placed in a single-sex environment, without access to condoms, prisoners often engage in consensual, unprotected sex. They do it for bartering for goods and for personal protection. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has reported that up to 30 percent of federal inmates engage in homosexual activity during incarceration. Without condoms, that is a guaranteed recipe for the rapid spread of HIV and AIDS.

That, in turn, increases the medical costs for the prison system. They have to treat HIV/AIDS with medications that are expensive. It also puts the general population at risk. Most of the prisoners are eventually released. Many of them who arrived at the prison HIV-negative leave the prison HIV-positive. They are at risk of transmitting the disease to their wives or girlfriends, or to those who share needles with them.

AB 1677 provides a very simple solution to the problem. It says that private nonprofit organizations should be allowed to distribute condoms to prisoners in California's prisons. AB 1677 is a good bill. Please vote for it.

Sincerely,

name

address

city, state, zip

April 15, 2005

The Hon. Darrell Steinberg
The California State Legislature
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly MemberSteinberg :

I urge you to vote for AB 106 when it comes before you in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. This bill would provide important financial support to domestic abuse treatment and prevention programs.

Domestic abuse is widespread in California and the nation. According to the Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, by the most conservative estimate one million women suffer nonfatal violence by an intimate each year. According to the Commonwealth Fund, domestic violence is the single major cause of injury to women. The California Department of Social Services has reported that domestic violence is the cause of 30% of physical disabilities in women.

In response to the epidemic of domestic abuse, most California counties have established a number of domestic abuse prevention and treatment programs. Much of the money for these programs comes from fines levied against those convicted of domestic abuse. However, collecting those fines has been very difficult. Many of them go uncollected in spite of aggressive collection campaigns by counties. This cash shortage has been strangling many beneficial programs.

AB 106 would require the courts of each county to establish a one-time amnesty program for fines, fees, penalties, and assessments that were imposed in domestic battery cases, and that have been delinquent for not less than six months as of January 1, 2006. It would provide that the amount scheduled by the court shall be 70% of the total fine. This plan is modeled after a very successful tax amnesty program established by California.

AB 106 certainly won't solve the problem of domestic abuse. But it may persuade many people who have not paid their fines to do so. That would provide some much-needed cash for domestic abuse treatment and prevention programs. Please vote for AB 106.

Sincerely,

name

address

city, state, zip

April 15, 2005

The Hon. Deborah Ortiz
The California State Legislature
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Ortiz :

I am writing to express my support for SB 840, the California Health Insurance Reliability Act. This bill would provide health coverage for every person in California while preserving, or perhaps even increasing, everyone's ability to choose their own physician. According to a study by the distinguished Lewin Group, the bill would reduce healthcare spending for employers who currently provide employee and dependent coverage as well as for most individuals.

Over 6.5 million Californians, or more than 20% of the state's population, went without insurance in 2003. That's one in every five Californians. People of color are disproportionately uninsured. The United States spends twice as much per person as every other industrialized country on healthcare, yet we are the only industrialized nation where people frequently go bankrupt because of medical costs.

A single-payer system covers everyone while, at the same time, reducing costs by streamlining the healthcare system and reducing administrative costs. A recent Boston University study found that our current system wastes nearly 50% of all health spending on clinical and administrative waste. It is estimated that by replacing the administrative functions of thousands of different insurance companies with one administration, California could shift $20 billion in the first year from administration into direct healthcare. By consolidating California's purchasing power for pharmaceuticals into one purchasing source, California could shift an additional $5.3 billion into direct healthcare. Finally, by providing preventative and primary care to everyone, California could actually save an additional $3.4 billion in the first year.

This act will affordably cover every Californian with a high quality of care and comprehensive benefits. I strongly support SB 840 (Kuehl) and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

AB 1074 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To authorize a foster parent or relative caregiver of a child adjudged to be a dependent child of the juvenile court, and the child's social worker, to consent to an HIV test on the child's behalf. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1142 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To establish a statewide African-American HIV/AIDS Initiative to address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on the health of African-Americans by coordinating prevention and service networks around the state and increasing the capacity of core service providers. The initiative would be implemented in five regional centers. **Status:** Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 19. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1677 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To require state prisons to allow nonprofits or healthcare agencies to distribute condoms and dental dams to prisoners in state prisons.
Status: Introduced. May be double-referred to Assembly Health Committee and Assembly Public Safety Committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 945 (Nell Soto, D–Pomona)
Purpose: To declare the Legislature's intent to enact legislation that requires the state to collect HIV test results, for epidemiological purposes only, in a manner that satisfies the needs of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure maximum accuracy of the data. This would involve including the name of the person being tested in the record, as now required by the federal government.
Status: Introduced. **LLP Position:** Watch pending actual language being added to the bill. Probably will support.

LGBTI Issues

AB 12 (Chuck Devore, R–Irvine)
Purpose: To provide that real property (such as a home) may be transferred to a beneficiary upon the death of the owner by recording, prior to the owner's death, a beneficiary deed signed by the owner of the property interest designating a beneficiary. Property transferred this way would not have to go through the long, expensive probate process.
Status: Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee. Hearing postponed. No new hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support if amended. This bill could benefit domestic partners who choose not to register with the state. But the law should require that notice of the gift be given to the beneficiary when the document is completed. Also the bill should state that the gift can be refused.

AB 19 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses in California and to establish that no clergy or religious organization can be required to solemnize any marriage to which they have a religious objection.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 195 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: When the State Personnel Board finds that a public employee (or an applicant for public employment) has been discriminated against by his or her employer in ways that are forbidden by state law, it may order that the employee be hired, reinstated, or upgraded with or without back pay and compensatory damages. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity are among the prohibited forms of discrimination. This bill would also permit the State Personnel Board to award attorneys fees to the complainant.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 220 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco, Chair, Committee on Public Domestic Violence)
Purpose: To amend several codes' sections that refer to battered woman syndrome and change those references to intimate partner battering. Would thus help members of LGBTI couples who are subject to this battering. **Status:** Approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 378 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: All persons in California have the right to be free from any violence, or intimidation by threat of violence, because of their race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or position in a labor dispute, or because another person perceives them to have any of those characteristics. Existing law allows an attorney general, district attorney, or city attorney to bring a civil action against any person who interferes, by threats, intimidation, or coercion, with the exercise or enjoyment of an individual's rights. This bill would increase the statute of limitation for the initiation of such an action from one year to three years. **Status:** Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 606 (Lloyd Levine, D–Sherman Oaks)
Purpose: To declare the intent of the Legislature to discourage discrimination and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons (LGBT) and other minority groups.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Watch. Probably support.

AB 723 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require school districts to provide classes in tolerance for members of different racial, ethnic, or religious groups.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support but seek addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to the classes.

AB 866 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: Current law has a form statement that candidates for political office may sign on a voluntary basis. It is a pledge to engage in a fair and clean campaign. This bill would amend the pledge to include a statement that the candidate will not use, or permit to be used, any appeal to negative prejudice based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1160 (Sally Lieber, D–Santa Clara)
Purpose: To declare that homosexual or gender identity panic alone is not a valid justification for murder. Nor is panic based on the actual or perceived disability, nationality, race, ethnicity, or religion.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1400 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To amend the Unruh Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of familial status, marital status, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Would provide that the identification of particular bases of discrimination in the act are illustrative rather than restrictive.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1586 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To prohibit health insurance providers from refusing to insure transgender people. **Status:** Introduced. **LLP Position:** Support.

ACA 3 (Ray Haynes, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage permanently in California and to take away the benefits that domestic partners have obtained over the past few years. This bill would also prohibit the granting of marriage-like benefits to them in the future. **Status:** Introduced. May be referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

SB 181 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To ban sexual orientation–based and gender-based discrimination against members of the state Military Reserve, state Naval Militia, or a person on state active duty.
Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support, but request that transgender people be added to those protected by this bill.

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SB 243 (Bob Dutton, R–Rancho Cucamonga)
Purpose: To authorize a credit against state income taxes in an amount equal to the amount paid for property taxes during the taxable year on the primary residence of a person or spouse of a person who, during that taxable year, was deployed in a combat or war zone.
Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Revenue and Tax. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support. If domestic partner added along side spouse.

SB 300 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To increase the circumstances under which an employer must allow an employee to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a seriously ill family member. The need to care for a domestic partner would be added to the list, among others.
Status: Referred to the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee for a vote on April 13.
LLP Position: Support.

SCA 1 (Bill Morrow, R–San Juan Capistrano)
Purpose: To amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage permanently in California and to take away the benefits that domestic partners have obtained over the past few years. This bill would also prohibit the granting of marriage-like benefits to them in the future. **Status:** Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Then to Senate Elections Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Oppose.

People of Color Issues

AB 13 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prohibit, with certain exceptions, public schools from using the name "Redskins" as a school or team mascot, name, or nickname.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee. Hearing canceled. No new hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 15 (Jerome Horton, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To encourage schools to include a discussion of the contributions of Filipinos to the war effort during World War II.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee. Vote scheduled for March 16. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 22 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To establish the crime of trafficking of a person for forced labor or services and the crime of trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude, both punishable as felonies. This bill would also require restitution to trafficking victims, and would require the development of a training program for peace officers on the subject of human trafficking. It would also require the Victim's Compensation and Government Claims Board to oversee local shelters for human trafficking victims. It would also require the Attorney General to make fighting human trafficking a high priority. **Status:** Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 41 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To establish the crime of trafficking of a person for forced labor or services and the crime of trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude, both punishable as felonies. This bill would also require restitution to trafficking victims.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 74 (Mike Gordon, D–El Segundo)
Purpose: To establish the California Rx Prescription Telephone Drug Hotline, which would provide information to consumers and healthcare providers about options for obtaining prescription drugs at affordable prices. People would call a low-cost (maximum 50 cents) toll phone number.
Status: Referred first to the Assembly Health Committee then the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. Vote in the Assembly Health Committee scheduled for April 12.
LLP Position: Support if amended to make the hotline available through a toll-free number.

AB 75 (Dario Frommer, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the California Rx Plus State Pharmacy Assistance Program, which would provide low-cost drugs to low-income Californians. This bill would authorize the state to negotiate drug rebate agreements with drug manufacturers to provide for program drug discounts. Would authorize any licensed pharmacy or drug manufacturer to provide services under the program.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee and then the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. Vote in the Assembly Health Committee scheduled for April 12.
LLP Position: Watch while we resolve concerns about the rebates.

AB 76 (Dario Frommer, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the Office of Pharmaceutical Purchasing within the California Health and Human Services Agency with authority and duties to purchase prescription drugs for state agencies. This bill would authorize the office to negotiate the lowest prices possible for prescription drugs.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee then the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. Vote in the Assembly Health Committee scheduled for April 12.
LLP Position: Watch over concerns whether this is the most efficient way to reduce costs and also assure that all necessary medications are available to patients.

AB 77 (Dario Frommer, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish a pilot project requiring the Department of Corrections to contract with outside agencies to provide healthcare services, including medications, to prison inmates. The purpose of the pilot project would be to see if it would reduce the department's costs.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee then the Assembly Health Committee. Vote in the Assembly Public Safety Committee scheduled for March 15. Postponed. No new date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 117 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: Currently there are eight regional centers for approving treatment authorization requests (TARs) for people on Medi-Cal. The centers do not have standardized criteria for approvals of requests. This bill would create one central office for approving TARs.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. Hearing postponed. No new hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Watch. It would be bad if the bill resulted in a reduction in the number of staff reviewing TARs.

AB 122 (Todd Spitzer, R–Orange)
Purpose: To require all child daycare facilities not subject to existing liability insurance or bond requirements to maintain sufficient liability insurance or a bond to cover injury to clients and guests. **Status:** Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee. Hearing postponed to March 29. **LLP Position:** Watch. This could run mom-and-pop daycare centers out of business.

AB 124 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To require each state agency to establish an equal opportunity program to ensure that the state policy of providing equal access to state jobs, work assignment, training, and other employment-related opportunities for all qualified job applicants and employees—based on merit and nondiscrimination in every aspect of personnel policies and employment practices—is fully implemented. It would require the State Personnel Board to collect employment data based on race, ethnicity, and gender.
Status: Referred to Assembly Public Employees and Social Security Committee for a vote on March 16.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 125 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To make the punishment the same for possession of either cocaine base or powder. Currently the punishment for possessing base is greater. Cocaine base is less expensive and is more common in communities of color than in white communities.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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AB 237 (Juan Arambula, D–Fresno)
Purpose: Existing law requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to make grants or loans to local public entities, nonprofit corporations, and limited partnerships for the construction or rehabilitation of housing for agricultural employees and their families. Existing law also requires that grants and loans be matched by the grantee with at least equal amounts of federal moneys, other cash investments, or in-kind contribution. This bill would authorize the department to forgive a loan if it determines that forgiveness is necessary to the financing or continued viability of housing pursuant to this program. It would also authorize the department to waive the matching requirement for migrant housing funded by specified bond funds if the department finds that the waiver is necessary to ensure that the housing can be financed.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee for a vote on April 13.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 306 (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: To establish a prescription drug purchasing pool that would bring down prescription drug costs of many Californians by allowing employer health plans and the uninsured to join with state and local governments and school districts in the purchase of prescription drugs.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 332 (Russ Bogh, R–Beaumont)
Purpose: To provide that no law enforcement entity or any local governing body may adopt an ordinance, rule, regulation, or order, or otherwise implement a policy, that prohibits law enforcement officers from initiating action to discover a person's alien status or that prohibits a law enforcement officer from arresting or booking a person for entering the country illegally.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

AB 368 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To require the state and counties to provide various welfare-to-work services and child care services, maintain a safety net for children, encourage and assist family stability and unity, and assist and serve eligible legal aliens. **Status:** Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on March 29.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 379 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To allow the following activities to be counted toward the 20 hour a week core activity requirement of the CalWORKs program: satisfactory progress in a secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general education development, vocational education and training, secondary school or general educational development, or other activities necessary to assist an individual in obtaining unsubsidized employment.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on March 29. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 408 (Van Tran, R–Dana Point)
Purpose: To repeal provisions requiring the state to investigate discrimination in lending practices for purchases of housing accommodations
Status: Double-referred to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee and the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 432 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To increase the number of places and the time in which new citizens may register and vote. Also to reduce the time before election day they must have become a citizen in order to register and vote.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 469 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the state to seek a waiver allowing it to pay for services otherwise covered by Medi-Cal when they are provided to beneficiaries residing in supportive housing run by local governments.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing on April 12. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 476 (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: To provide funds for the development of Native American instructional materials for pubic schools.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 477 (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: To allow certain providers of in-home supportive services to people on public assistance to purchase health insurance coverage for their employees and employees families (including domestic partners) through the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act, if the coverage is eligible for maximum federal financial participation. There would be limits on state financing of the coverage.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 482 (Loni Hancock, D–Berkeley)
Purpose: To end the requirement that certain limited-English students take an achievement test in English and then again in their native language. Would allow these students to take the test only in their native language.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Watch.

AB 503 (Sally Lieber, D–Santa Clara)
Purpose: To require the state to prepare a bill of rights that includes specified rights and to ensure that each county provides each CalWORKs recipient a copy of that bill of rights in his or her native language.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 528 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To increase the penalty to $2,500 to check cashers who violate the laws regarding allowable fees for check cashing. **Status**: Referred to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 683 (Simon Salinas, D–Salinas)
Purpose: To state the intent of the Legislature to create a primary care insurance program for chronically and historically uninsured industries in the state. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Watch. Probably support.

AB 855 (Karen Bass, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide that, with certain exceptions, a person convicted of drug-related felonies shall be eligible to receive CalWORKs or food stamp benefits if he or she meets certain conditions of eligibility. Does not apply to drug dealers or those who persuade minors to be drug dealers.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 934 (Mark Wyland, R–Del Mar)
Purpose: To prohibit a person from registering to vote unless he or she can provide proof of citizenship at the time of registration. A person already registered as of January 1, 2006, would not be required to submit proof of citizenship unless that person were to change registration from one county to another. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1215 (Mark Wyland, R–Del Mar)
Purpose: To require schools to provide parents requesting a waiver from English-immersion schooling for their child with information about certain test score data of English learner pupils enrolled in bilingual education classes, and to require the parent to sign a document stating that he or she understands the information. The bill would prohibit teachers and administrators from recommending that a pupil receive bilingual education instead of English-immersion instruction.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

AB 1338 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To require that a dependent child of the court who is not a citizen of the United States and for whom the court has determined parental

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reunification is no longer an option, be provided an attorney specializing in immigration law who may pursue special immigrant status or any other avenue to obtain legal permanent resident status or citizenship for that child.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1465 (Dennis Mountjoy, R–Monrovia)
Purpose: To bar state prison staff, other than a physician, from interfering with the delivery of a treatment prescribed by a physician unless imminent risk of bodily harm to the physician, staff, or inmate requires alternate or modified procedures.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

ACA 6 (Mark Wyland, R–Vista)
Purpose: To amend the state constitution to prohibit the state from issuing any driver's license or state identification card, providing in-state tuition or fees for postsecondary education, granting any voting privileges, or providing any health, social, or other state or local public benefit to any person who is neither a citizen of the United States nor any alien lawfully present in the United States, unless the privilege, service, or the benefit is required by federal law.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Oppose.

ACAX1 4 (Rick Keene, R–Chico)
Purpose: To amend the state constitution to require that reductions be imposed automatically on all General Fund appropriations enacted on or before the date of a proclamation by the governor that the state's income and expenses are significantly out of balance. The amounts of the cuts would be by a percentage estimated by the Director of Finance to cause total General Fund appropriations not to exceed General Fund revenues by the end of that fiscal year. The cuts would go into effect 45 days after the proclamation unless state legislators pass legislation to address the problem prior to that 45-day deadline.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Budget Process Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Oppose. Arbitrary, statewide cuts to all programs could be devastating to vital programs.

ACR 3 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To proclaim May 2–8, 2005, as California Holocaust Memorial Week and urge Californians to observe these days of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust in an appropriate manner. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 10 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey)
Purpose: To declare February 19, 2005, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II, and to encourage the annual observance of this day in subsequent years so that children in California may learn from our history.
Status: Signed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 1 (Rudy Bermudez, D–Bellflower)
Purpose: To memorialize the president and Congress to urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp to honor Dr. Dalip S. Saund, an outstanding immigrant from India. This bill would encourage Californians to celebrate his birthday each year. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 2 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To memorialize the president and Congress to honor the contributions of Filipino-American war veterans and direct the federal government to immediately pay promised veterans' benefits as the first order of business of the 109th Congress.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 19 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To establish the California Pharmacy Assistance Program (Cal Rx). This bill would require the program to negotiate drug rebates with drug manufacturers in order to provide low-cost drugs to people on limited incomes but who have too much income to qualify for Medi-Cal. The program may be run by the state or a third-party vendor. This bill would establish a program for pharmacists or drug manufacturers to sell discounted drugs to California Rx participants.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 23 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the Employment Development Department to send informational brochures on the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal programs to employers for distribution to their employees. This bill would establish a system to allow employees to have the family contribution payments for healthcare coverage under the Healthy Families Program deducted from the employee's pay and transmitted to the state. Would require the state to do outreach and marketing on the Healthy families program and Medi-Cal to enroll more qualified participants.
Status: Referred to the Senate Banking Committee and the Senate Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 24 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To require each private hospital to develop a written reduced-cost, charity care policy and application form and to provide these to patients. This bill would also limit debt collection activities of the hospital during the first 150 days after discharge of the patient.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health Committee and then to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on March 30. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 26 (Dennis Hollingsworth, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To reduce state income taxes, effective January 1, 2003. This bill would eliminate them entirely beginning January 1, 2007.
Status: Referred to the Senate Revenue and Tax Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Oppose. This bill would devastate the state's public health and social services programs.

SB 60 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow certain undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers licenses in California. Applicants would have to provide proof of identity and a full set of finger prints. The finger prints would be submitted to law enforcement agencies to determine if the applicant had a criminal record. The fingerprints would not be submitted to the Immigration service. People with criminal records would be denied a license. Commercial drivers licenses would not be available to undocumented immigrants. **Status:** Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee for a vote on March 15. Hearing delayed. No new date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 100 (Richard Alarcon, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: California ranks 51st among the states and the District of Columbia in the level of reimbursement per Medi-Cal payment to healthcare providers. This bill would state the legislature's intent to increase the payment rate for Medi-Cal.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 112 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: The state Department of Social Services distributes funds from the federal Refugee Act of 1980 to the counties in California. These funds pay for employment-related and English language training programs to immigrant refugees in those counties. Currently the money is divided up by percentages of refugees on public assistance in each county. If 10% of the refugees statewide, who are on public assistance, live in County A, County A gets 10% of the funds. This bill would make the division of funds based on the percentage of all refugees in a county, whether or not on public assistance, the determining factor on how much of the money each county gets. **Status:** Referred to the Senate Human Services Committee for a hearing on April 12.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 131 (Wes Chesbro, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: Existing law provides that federally qualified health center services and rural health clinic services are covered benefits under the Medi-Cal program. These provisions require that

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these care providers be reimbursed on a per-visit basis. However, they may elect to have pharmacy or dental services reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis. This bill would allow these care providers to be reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis for inpatient cardiology or inpatient obstetrical services. The bill requires the state to get federal approval of this change.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health Committee for a hearing on March 30.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 189 (Wesley Chesbro, D–Arcata)
Purpose: To require a healthcare service plan and health insurer to provide coverage for the medically necessary treatment of substance-related disorders, excluding caffeine-related disorders, on the same basis that coverage is provided for any other medical condition. The bill would authorize a plan and insurer to limit non-hospital residential care to 60 days per calendar year.
Status: Double-referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Finance, and Insurance and to the Senate Health Insurance Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 388 (Charles Poochigian, R–Fresno)
Purpose: To establish a one-year, pilot program in three unnamed counties to disseminate information regarding current prison penalties for the personal use of a firearm during the commission of certain felonies. Each county would be eligible for up to $1 million in federal grant funds for the program.
Status: Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Probably support, pending naming of the counties.

SB 670 (Joseph Dunn, D–Santa Ana)
Purpose: To express the apology of the State of California to those individuals who, from 1929 to 1944, were illegally deported, or coerced into emigrating, to Mexico as a result of the Mexican Repatriation Program, and to require that a plaque be placed and maintained in a public place to commemorate this event. **Status:** Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 840 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To make all California residents eligible for specified healthcare benefits under the California Health Insurance System. On a single-payer basis, this program would negotiate, or set fees, for healthcare services provided through the system and pay claims for those services.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 862 (Don Perata, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage in California. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Probably support pending actual dollar amount.

SB 1071 (Tom McClintock, R–Thousand Oaks)
Purpose: To end automatic cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for people in CalWORKS. COLAs would occur only if approved by two-thirds of each legislative house in the annual budget bill. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Oppose.

SCR 18 (Jim, Battin, R–La Quinta)
Purpose: To proclaim November 2005 as California Indian Heritage Month, encourage its observance with activities that celebrate our uniqueness as Americans, and commend California Indian nations for their outstanding contributions to this state.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

SCR 22 (Jim, Battin, R–La Quinta)
Purpose: To proclaim September 15 to October 15, 2005, inclusive, as California Hispanic Heritage Month, and encourage all Californians to observe this event in communities throughout the state. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 8 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To require most health insurance plans to provide a minimum of 48 hours of inpatient care for a mastectomy and 24 hours of inpatient care for a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer, unless the physician, surgeon, and patient determine that a shorter period of inpatient care is appropriate. The bill would also require coverage to be provided for a follow-up visit with a licensed healthcare professional within 48 hours of the patient's discharge from inpatient care.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee. Hearing canceled at author's request. Bill being dropped by the author. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 21 (Lloyd Levine, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To prohibit a pharmacist from declining to dispense a contraceptive or emergency contraceptive.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing on April 5. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 59 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To provide significant sentence enhancements for domestic violence committed when the accused knew that a child under the age of 18 was present.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 70 (Bill Maze, R–Visalia)
Purpose: To require the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide a new set of license plates to a registered owner of a vehicle who provides certain evidence of having been the victim of rape or sexual battery.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Transportation Committee for a hearing on April 4. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 96 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To add payment of any court-ordered child support as a condition of probation for domestic violence.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 99 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To provide that restraining orders issued in domestic violence cases may have a duration of not more than five years (up from three years in current law) by the discretion of the court.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 102 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To require the presiding judges of the family, criminal, and juvenile courts of each county to create a jointly written protocol to allow these courts to jointly assess and produce a recommendation that a defendant or ward be designated as dual status, permitting the courts to access all background information on the defendant or ward held by any of these court systems. The purpose is to allow for a coordinated approach when more than one court is dealing with a situation such as a domestic violence case.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a hearing on February 22. Hearing postponed. No new hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 106 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To require the courts of each county to establish a one-time amnesty program for fees, penalties, and assessments that were imposed in domestic battery cases, and that have been delinquent for not less than six months as of January 1, 2006. It would provide that the amount scheduled by the court be 70% of the total fees, penalties, and assessments and would set forth other parameters of the amnesty program.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 112 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To require the court, prior to the modification of a protective order, to confirm the identity of the party petitioning for the modification. Sometimes a friend of a domestic abuser poses as the victim and asks the court to modify or end a protective order.
Status: Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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AB 114 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To provide that when a defendant is accused of child abuse in a criminal action, evidence of the defendant's prior acts of domestic violence may be admitted to prove the defendant's conduct.
Status: Referred to Assembly Public Safety Committee for a vote on March 15. Hearing canceled at the author's request. **LLP Position:** Watch

AB 169 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To increase the penalties for employers who pay women less than men for the same work and to mandate the types of damages employees should recover if they are successful in bringing a civil action against their employer for willful violations of pay equity law. **Status:** Referred to Assembly Labor and Employment Committee for a hearing on April 6.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 190 (Gloria Negrete McLeod, D–Montclair)
Purpose: To allow taxpayers to designate on their tax returns that a specified amount in excess of their tax liability be transferred to the California Sexual Violence Victim Services Fund, which would be created by this bill. However, the bill would provide that a voluntary contribution designation for this fund may not be added on the tax return until another voluntary contribution designation is removed from that return.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Revenue and Tax committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Watch with concern that another valuable program, to which voluntary contributions can be made, may be removed from the list on the tax return.

AB 291 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To require the state's maternal and child health program, operated by the state Department of Health Services, to require that pregnant women and new mothers be screened for postpartum mood and anxiety disorders, at designated intervals. This would require a physician or other healthcare practitioner to review and discuss the screening tool with the patient. The bill would require the physician or other healthcare practitioner to present the patient with an information sheet on postpartum mood and anxiety disorders.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 5.
LLP Position: Support if amended to make the screening voluntary.

AB 322 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To enact the Equity in Athletics Bill of Rights, enumerating the rights available to a pupil relating to gender equity in athletics. The bill would require the State Department of Education to post the bill of rights on its Web site, and require a school district that elects to offer competitive or club sports to its pupils to print and post flyers setting forth the bill of rights in several locations in schools.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee for a vote on April 5. **LLP Position:** Support if amended to make the screening voluntary.

AB 429 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To make several changes to law which increase the chances that a protective order, resulting from workplace violence or domestic violence, are promptly served on the accused.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 5. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 506 (Cindy Montanez, D–San Fernando)
Purpose: To require each school district to establish a policy and protocol, including reporting procedures and response requirements, for dealing with teen dating violence, as defined, in middle schools and high schools. This would also require the State Department of Education to incorporate teen dating violence education curriculum into the health curriculum framework at its next revision.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 634 (Sally Lieber, D–Santa Clara)
Purpose: To require an international marriage broker to provide information to a foreign recruit, as defined, in his or her language, consisting of an American client's criminal and marital history information.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on April 5. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1288 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require a court, as part of a protective order in domestic violence cases, to compel the abuser to surrender any guns. This would allow the local police or sheriff to tell a domestic abuse victim, in such cases, that the abuser has purchased a gun.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Watch.

AB 1418 (Jerome Horton, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To require a healthcare service plan or health insurance policy that does not include maternity benefits to provide notice, at the time of solicitation, that the plan or policy does not cover or provide those benefits.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

ACR 2 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To proclaim the month of October 2005 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. **Status:** Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 3 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To petition the president and Congress to protect and uphold the intent and substance of the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade,* relating to reproductive rights, and to encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration, "The March for Women's Lives," in recognition of that decision's historic importance in promoting women' s rights.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Not referred to a Senate Committee yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 585 (Christine Kehoe, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To tighten the laws requiring someone to surrender any guns when he or she is the subject of a protective order in a domestic abuse case.
Status: Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1030 (Dennis Hollingsworth, R–Murrieta)
Purpose: To state that California law does not require a business establishment to provide nonessential services to a member of the public, if to do so would violate one's conscience due to a sincerely held religious belief.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Oppose. Author's office says this bill would allow a druggist to refuse to dispense prescription birth control medication.

CAPITAL GRAPHICS INC.

Stuart Eldridge

2920 36th Street
Sacramento, California 95817
www.capgraph.com

Tel: (916) 455-2777
Fax: (916) 455-4111
Toll Free: (877) 453-6003
SEldridge@capgraph.com

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